

# **DNREC's Division of Parks & Recreation hosts First Day Hikes across Delaware**

New Year's Day is a great time to kick the 2020s off on the right foot with one of 18 First Day Hikes hosted by DNREC's Division of Parks and Recreation. First Day Hikes is a national movement sponsored by America's State Parks to encourage the celebration of fitness in the nation's great outdoors.

There's no need to register for any of the hikes listed below; just show up prepared to walk! Items hikers may want to bring along include comfortable hiking/walking shoes, a camera, a bottle of water, appropriate layers for the weather, a hat, sunglasses, a backpack, and snacks. Some hikes may require water-resistant shoes, or have age or pet restrictions. Not all hikes are suitable for strollers.

Check out one of the following hikes to celebrate the New Year at a Delaware State Park.

- **10 a.m. – Alapocas Run State Park, Wilmington – 2 to 3 miles – Easy/Moderate**

Meet at Blue Ball Barn. Leashed, well-behaved dogs welcome.

- **10 a.m. – Fort Dupont State Park, Delaware City – 1.1 miles – Easy**

Meet at the parking lot closest to the river, at the end of Wilmington Avenue/Old Battery Lane.

- **10 a.m. – Trap Pond State Park, Laurel – 2 miles – Easy**

Meet at Baldcypress Nature Center.

- **11 a.m. – Cape Henlopen State Park, Lewes – 1.5 miles – Moderate**

Park in the Point Comfort Station Parking lot and walk north to the Point parking lot. Minimum age: 7 years old with an adult.

- **12:30 p.m. – Brandywine Zoo, Wilmington – 1/4 mile – Easy**

Meet at the gift shop.

- **12:30 p.m. – Fort Miles Museum and Historical Area, Lewes – 1.7 miles – Easy**

Meet at Fort Miles Parking Lot. Minimum age: 7 years old with an adult

- **1 p.m. – Bellevue State Park, Wilmington – 1.5 to 3 miles – Easy**

Meet at Bellevue Arts Center. This hike is for all ages and is stroller friendly.

- **1 p.m. – First State Heritage Park, Dover – 1/4 mile – Easy**

Meet at the John Bell House.

- **1 p.m. – Holts Landing State Park, Bethany Beach – 1.7 miles – Easy**

Meet at Holts Landing Picnic Pavilion.

- **1 p.m. – Killens Pond State Park, Felton – 1 to 3 miles – Varying Difficulty**

Meet at the Nature Center.

- **1 p.m. – Lums Pond State Park, Bear– 2.5 miles – Easy/Moderate**

Meet at Area 1 Pavilion/. Pets are permitted but must be on a 6-foot leash.

- **1 p.m. – Auburn Valley State Park, Yorklyn – 1.1 miles – Moderate**

Meet at 1516 Snuff Mill Road Trail lot.

- **1 p.m. – Brandywine Creek State Park, Wilmington – 2-2.5 miles – Moderate**

Meet at the Nature Center.

**1 p.m. – White Clay Creek State Park, Newark – 1 to 2.5 miles – Multiple Difficulties**

- 1.3 miles – Moderate – Millstone Pond Trail. Meet at Carpenter Recreation Area.
- 2 miles – Moderate/Difficult – Arc Corner Monument Loop. Meet at Nature Center.
- 2 miles – Moderate – PennDel/Pomeroy Trail. Meet at Nature Center
- 2.5 miles – Moderate/Difficult – Twin Valley Trail. Meet at Carpenter Recreation Area.

**• 3:30 p.m. – Auburn Valley State Park – Easy – 1 mile**

Meet at the Paper Mill Parking Lot on Benge Road.

For more information about the Delaware State Parks First Day Hikes and to see maps of the park trails beforehand, go to <https://destateparks.com/firstday> or call 302-739-9220.